

# Wisconsin Agricultural Development Zone

## Central Mississippi River Region

### Regional Make-up

The two counties that make up the Central Mississippi River Region of Wisconsin's Agricultural Development Zone include more than 1,600 farms, comprising more than 450,000 acres of agricultural production.

The counties' fertile soil and topography have created prime agricultural land for growing crops and raising livestock. Agriculture has long been a major component of the region's economy, with agricultural production, agribusinesses and businesses that provide goods and services to the farming community playing an important role in the area's vitality.

### Regional Goals

In 1985, there were 845 dairy herds in Buffalo and Pepin Counties. By 2000, that number had dropped to

565, a 33% decline in dairy operations over the 15-year period. The Central Mississippi River Region has conducted an analysis of its infrastructure, resources, industrial clusters and growth opportunities, identifying nine areas that will benefit from a zone designation. The region intends to expand its agriculture/food-processing cluster by maintaining and strengthening the existing agricultural base.

### Regional Contact

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